Exploration and research in atomic minerals

3041. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up any high powered committee under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary to oversee statutory clearance by State and Central Authorities with regard to exploration and research pertaining to atomic minerals including nuclear raw materials;

(b) whether it is a fact that Atomic Minerals Directorate (AMD) is responsible for identifying exploration and research relating to atomic minerals, which is the first step required in India's Nuclear Fuel Cycle; and

(c) if so, the progress so far made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary, which will examine issues relating to exploration and mining of Uranium and also help remove the bottlenecks to speed up activities. This Committee will also guide and monitor uranium mining and milling projects and suggest ways to remove the constraints, which inhibit them.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit under DAE has identified 1,07,268 tonnes of Uranium Resources (U_3O_8) in six States of the country.

Violation of safety rules

3042. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that safety rules are not being followed properly by the Ministry of Coal in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any investigations and inspection in this regard;